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ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX627 MCN = 93188/25591 TOR = 931881721
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS4841 1881721 ~~CCCC RUEALGX.~~
~~ZNY CCCCC~~

HEADER

R 071721Z JUL 93
FM DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RHHMMC/YJCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/FASTC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUERACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEARDF/DIAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//IS//
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 071647Z JUL 93
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHVL/AMEMBASSY VILNIUS 2293
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC [REDACTED] (b) (3)
RUEADWD/DA WASHDC//DAPE-ZB-TFR//
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8305
INFO RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ/DAPE-ZB-TFR-H//
RUDMONI/ONI SUITLAND MD//ONI-61//
RUAGOTC/CINCUNC SEOUL
RUHQHQE/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC//OJCS-PW/MIA/J5//
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP-PW/MIA//
RULSND/NAVLGRU WASHDC
BT

CONTROLS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 020543

DEPT FOR EUR/ISCA AND BAP

~~E.O. 12356/DECL. OADR~~

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

TAGS: KPOW, MOPS, PREL PHUM, RS
SUBJECT: POW/MIA: INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REF: A) VILNIUS 551; B) DIA 101530Z MAY 93;
C) VILNIUS 1089; D) DIA OLLG15Z JUL 93

1. ENTIRE TEXT ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2. SUMMARY: ON JUNE 22, 1993, TFR-M MEMBER INTERVIEWED [REDACTED] WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN WITH THREE AMERICAN POWS FROM KOREA AND VIETNAM AT OLKHOVKA PRISON CAMP IN 1982. [REDACTED] PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON HIS ENCOUNTERS BUT CONTINUED TO PRESS FOR FINANCIAL REWARD. END SUMMARY.

3. ON JUNE 22, 1993, TFR-M REPRESENTATIVE JIM CONNELL INTERVIEWED [REDACTED] REFERRED TO IN REFTELS AS [REDACTED], AT EMBASSY VILNIUS. REFTTEL A CONTAINS BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON [REDACTED] WHO CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH AMERICAN POWS FROM KOREA AND VIETNAM IN OLKHOVKA PRISON CAMP IN 1982. REFTTEL B IS A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED] HE IS LIVING PRESENTLY AT [REDACTED]

(b) (2) (high)

4. AS IN THE INTERVIEW WITH CONOFF STAESEN REPORTED IN REFTTEL C, [REDACTED] BEGAN THE INTERVIEW WITH AN APPEAL TO PAY HIM 3000 USD. HE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS DETAINED FOR 20 DAYS IN ST. PETERSBURG BEGINNING APRIL 12, 1993, IN CONNECTION WITH NON-PAYMENT OF CHILD SUPPORT TO HIS FORMER WIFE. [REDACTED] BUT HE HAD TO PLEDGE HIS APARTMENT IN VILNIUS TO OBTAIN CASH. [REDACTED] SAID THE PLEDGE HAD COME DUE AND THAT HE WAS DESPERATE FOR MONEY. TFR-M MEMBER EXPLAINED ONCE AGAIN THAT U.S. POLICY FORBIDS PAYMENT FOR POW/MIA INFORMATION, BUT AISIN-MUSIN AGREED TO CONTINUE THE INTERVIEW.

5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (1) 1.5(c)

6.

[REDACTED]

(b) (1) 1.5(c)

7. [REDACTED] BELIEVED THAT "EDWIN", ONE OF THE TWO ALLEGED POWS FROM VIETNAM, WAS WATCHED BY THE KGB BECAUSE [REDACTED] WAS QUESTIONED THREE TIMES BY THE KGB AFTER HB HAD HAD CONTACT WITH EDWIN. OTHER PRISONERS SAID EDWIN HAD BEEN AT OLKHOVKA FOR TEN YEARS. SECURITY WHERE EDWIN WORKED WAS VERY HIGH: THREE GUARDS WITH MACHINE GUNS GUARDED THE PREMISES. [REDACTED] SCOFFED AT THE IDEA EDWIN MIGHT HAVE BEEN A KGB PLANT. [REDACTED]

(b) (1) 1.5(c)

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 002 *****/
AMSWERED THE QUESTION WHY HIGH SECURITY PRISONERS LIKE EDWIN WOULD BE PERMITTED CONTACT WITH A PRISONER LIKE HIMSELF WITH THE ANSWER THAT THE WORK -- IN THIS CASE BUILDING HOUSES -- PERMITTED CONTACT AND PRISONERS WERE WARNED NOT TO TALK ABOUT THEMSELVES.

8. [REDACTED] SAID EDWIN WAS "WILD" (DIKIY) AND LIKED TO TEST THE SYSTEM. HB DOES NOT BELIEVE EDWIN WAS A TRAITOR WHO CAME TO RUSSIA OF HIS OWN WILL. EDWIN, ACCORDING TO [REDACTED] HAD LIGHT HAIR, VERY THICK, WILD BYEBROWS, AND A BIG NOSE. HE HAD A HIGHER EDUCATION AND HIGH INTELLECT. [REDACTED] SAID EDWIN WAS A CAPTAIN, USAF, AND A FIGHTER PILOT. HE EVEN DISCUSSED WEAPONRY WITH EDWIN. [REDACTED] SAID EDWIN WAS WOUNDED WHEN HE WAS SHOT DOWN IN LAOS IN 1973. HE WAS THEN TRANSFERRED TO VIETNAM, THEN TO THE IRKUTSK MILITARY MEDICAL INSTITUTE FOR AN UNKNOWN PERIOD OF TIME. [REDACTED] SAID EDWIN SPENT TWO YEARS IN A PRISON CAMP IN IRKUTSK BEFORE BEING SENT TO OLKHOVKA ABOUT 1976.

(b) (1) 1.5(c)

9. [REDACTED] HAD NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE THIRD

ALLEGED AMERICAN, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT [REDACTED] BELIEVES THE THIRD AMERICAN WAS SENT TO MURMANSK IN 1983 WHERE A SHIP TOOK HIM, OTHER AMERICANS AND SOME GERMANS TO CUBA.

10. [REDACTED] WAS VBRY HAZY ON THE DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED ROTATION OF PRISONERS BETWEEN OLKHOVKA, SOM AND 8IM BY HELICOPTER. HE SAID EVERYONE, INCLUDING THE AMERICANS, WAS ROTATED RANDOMLY, WHICH MEANT NO MORE THAN A YBAR WAS SPENT AT EACH CAMP. HE SAID OLKHOVKA HAD ABOUT 400 INMATES, SOM - 300, AND SIM - 200. TFR-M COMMENT: TFR-M IS ATTEMPTING TO VERIFY THE EXISTENCE OF THESE THREE CAMPS [REDACTED]

11. THE CEMETERY WITH JAPANESE, CZECH AND POLISH NAMES WAS LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PRISON AND [REDACTED] HAD ONLY HEARD ABOUT IT. [REDACTED] WENT INTO GREAT DETAIL ABOUT PRISON LIFE, STATING THAT THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF MONEY IN CIRCULATION IN THE PRISON AND EDWIN WOULD HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE GETTING MONEY FOR VODKA. HE ALSO SAID CONTACTS AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE COURT SYSTEM WERE AVAILABLE. HE REPEATED THE LOST RIFLE INCIDENT (RBFTEL A) EXCEPT HE SAID IT WAS ACTUALLY AN AUTOMATIC RIFLE. [REDACTED] TALKED ABOUT PRISONER REVOLTS AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE GUARDS TO KILL PRISONERS WITH IMPUNITY.

12. [REDACTED] SPENT A GREAT DEAL OF TIME RECOUNTING HIS PROBLEMS IN PRISON. HE SAID A CHUVASH KILLED A DARK-SKINNED PRISONER, POSSIBLY A FRENCH-AMERICAN. THE CHUVASH THEN DIED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. [REDACTED] WAS ACCUSED OF KILLING THE CHUVASH AND GOT THREE MONTHS INFORMAL (NOT RECORDED) PUNISHMENT IN THE KARTSER (SOLITARY CONFINEMENT). LATER HE WAS SLIPPED A NOTE WHICH SAID THE CHUVASH HAD DIED OF A RUPTURED ULCER.

13. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED] APPEARS TO BE VERY INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE, ALTHOUGH THE [REDACTED] BRINGS HIS JUDGEMENT INTO QUESTION. HE IS SEEKING BOTH MONEY AND TASKING. HE WAS TOLD BY TFR-M THAT WE WERE AUTHORIZED TO GIVE HIM NEITHER. FINALLY, HE WAS TOLD HIS INFORMATION WOULD BE EVALUATED AND WE WOULD HOPE WE COULD COUNT ON HIS FUTURE COOPERATION, BUT NOT FOR A PRICE.

15. ON JUNE 28, 1993, [REDACTED] CALLED TFR-M AT EMBASSY MOSCOW. HE STRESSED HIS DIRE FINANCIAL SITUATION, BUT REDUCED HIS REQUEST FOR MONEY TO 1500 USD. ONCE AGAIN HE WAS TOLD THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT PAY FOR POW/MIA INFORMATION. [REDACTED] AGREED TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE ON A HUMANITARIAN BASIS. ON JULY 12, 1993, CONOFF STAEBEN CALLED TFR-M TO SAY THAT [REDACTED]

(b) (2) (high)

(b) (2) (high)

(b) (2) (high)

[REDACTED] HAD PRESENTED SOME NEW INFORMATION WHICH EMBASSY
VILNIUS WILL DISSEMINATE SOON. REFTEL D OVERTAKES SOME
OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS CABLE. TFR-M WILL COORDINATE
WITH BMBASSY VILNIUS TO MEET THE REMAINING REQUIREMENTS

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 003 *****/
OF REFTEL D.

16. POW/MIA TEAM SENDS. PICKERING

ADMIN

BT

#4843

NNNN